STUDENT WRITING

FROM

THE MANITOBA YOUTH CENTRE

SOME LANGUAGE EXPERIENCE STORIES

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Winnipeg, Manitoba

Island Lake

I was born in March the 24th in 1972, in Norway House, but we were living in Garden Hill.

Garden Hill is a reserve located in Island Lake. There are another two reserves, one is St. Theresa Point is about 9 miles from Garden Hill, and the other is Wasagamak, is about 9 or 10 miles from Garden Hill.

When I was living in Garden Hill, I used to go fishing and hunting and during the summertime, I used to go swimming and hunting goose and ducks. I was using my boat, and a shotgun that my father taught me how to use. During the winter time, I used to go hunting with my skidoo, and I used to go ice fishing. When we were ice fishing, we used to make a hole in the ice, using an axe and "exkan", and using a hook to catch the fish.

In the winter time, I used to play hockey, sometimes I was a goalie. Sometimes I was driving around with my skidoo, visiting my friends, one of them was Cameron. We liked to drive two skidoos around Garden Hill. Sometimes we went to St. Theresa Point and other times to Wasagamak.

I am John Robinson and I am from Oxford House. I am fifteen years old. I like hunting and fishing and trapping. The sports I like are football and baseball. I live 320 miles from Portage. When I came to Winnipeg from Oxford House, it took me 4 or 5 hours. I have seven brothers and one sister in my family. I arrived at Agassiz in February. I am very homesick and would like to see my family again. Someday I would like to live in Portage and join the RCMP.

October 25/89, Wednesday

Our meeting with the Up With People group yesterday, four people from the group, they sing and dance, came to visit us and we talked about all over the cities, and three young me and one young girl was from Holland and she talked to us in her own language and we looked at a map of Canada, and Kristof wanted us to try hard to use hard words. Fred and Alfonze went to court in Winnipeg, and Kristof wanted us to speak Cree, and we went to lunch with Up With People, and we wanted to meet them again some time. We talked in our cottage about the world. About all countries and that was when we had lunch with Up With People yesterday, and when we come back to school after lunch. I had fun after they left. In my group we all went to work. The job we did was raking leaves and we got by a man who owns the hoes, and I learned that they are 11,000,200 to get in the group. They are five groups, and you have to have your high school to be with the group, and three men were from the United States.

Skipping School

I was 14 years old, I was going to school in Norway House, Manitoba, grade 8. I liked school, but I didn't get along with some classmates. I got bored in school, before the older boys started to tease me. That's when I started to get pissed off at them, that's when I started to skip school with some friends. I sometimes skip school myself. I didn't like the teachers, because they were mean. Sometimes they gave me hard work. I didn't like doing hard work. Maybe that's why I skipped school a lot.

My name is Darren Eagelstick

My name is Darren Eagelstick. I am the youngest in my family. I have a dog. He is small and black and white.

I have three brothers and three sisters. Two sisters live in Winnipeg.

At the school in Little Grand Rapids, I have a man teacher. Sometimes he makes me mad. I like Maths most.

Hockey is my favorite sport. I play forward and I like shooting at the goal. I know how to make slap shots. Sometimes I can make seven goals in one game. I do not like to be the goalie because it is more fun to shoot the puck. I would be happy if it was winter all the time. Then I could play hockey all the time.

I like to go hunting too. I go hunting for rabbits. I use my 22. My dog likes to chase around rabbits. Some days I shoot two rabbits. I skin them and stretch the skins to dry. My mother makes soft gloves from the skins. We sell the gloves at Little Grand Rapids.

I like to make soup with the rabbit meat. My whole family likes the soup. I take some to my Grandfather and Grandmother. They really like soup. There is sometimes leftovers for the next day. My dog thinks the bones are a big treat.

My First Hunting Experience

Approximately 3 years ago, I went to Delta to hunt for geese. The name of the place was Cadam Bay. A friend of mine named "Mark" took me that day. We started our day by loading the canoe and decoys up. The journey to the island had to be done in the canoe as the spot was in the middle of the island. When we got to the island, we pulled the boat in and set the decoys out. Patience was our greatest virtue at this point as now, all we could do was wait for the geese to fly over. Several flocks flew over and several hours passed. Finally that time came when the adrenalin started to rush again. A shot rang out from my gun and a goose fell. It landed in the water, so we had to paddle out to get it. To our surprise, it was still alive. I made another shot to kill it this time but missed it. The goose was only keeping his head up and was bobbing up and down in the water from the motion of the waves. This was making it hard for me to get the goose.

Suddenly he disappeared and went under the water. The goose was obviously hanging onto a reed and didn't want to come up. Finally he did and "bang" he was dead.

After all this excitement, and my well deserved goose, I wanted to go home. That night I plucked and gutted my goose. I was very proud of myself and enjoyed eating it about one month later. I have not gone since, but I am looking forward to the next time.

Trip to Expo

I went to Vancouver with my family to see Expo 86. My dad drove and mom too, it took 3 or 4 days to get to Vancouver. We stayed at the hotel for 1 night. We spent 1 night in Golden and 2 nights in Kelowna and we stayed in Vancouver for almost a month. We had to walk everywhere to get to the bus and then we took a ride on the monorail to go to Expo. There were lots of food, games, selling stuff, and stores. We went to Expo 3 times. We spent the rest of the time enjoying ourselves and visiting relatives for almost a month. We drove all the way back to Winnipeg and we unpacked the suitcases. We all had lots of fun at Expo 86.

The Eagle

One day an eagle was on its nest on the side of a cliff. There were five babies and they were hungry. So the mother was going to get some food when the babies tried to follow her because they wanted to be with their mother. The mother saw this and she went back to try and stop them but she didn't get there in time and four of them fell and they couldn't fly because they were only 3 weeks old, so she swooped down and saved one. After that, she never left her nest again. So all three including the mother died of hunger.

Flipped Out

When I was in A.Y.C. they had fun days. Everyday for 2 weeks we did different games and tournaments. Pool, racing, high jump, tug-o-war, pushups, situps, volleyball, baseball, basketball, long distance running and trampoline. I used to like to do flips on my sister's exercise bouncer. I went into the trampoline contest. I jumped too high and landed on my head with my chin in my chest. I lay there and couldn't move. They took me to the nurse's office on a stretcher. The doctor told me I had to wear a collar for about two weeks. I was in pain and couldn't move my head, couldn't do sports and had to spend time laying around. That's why I don't want to do flips anymore.

A.Y.C. is a jail for youths and to help the youths with their problems and it's okay. It has good food a lot and a pool to swim in and pool tables and good to work for people and go to school and it is fun. It's a program to help people and kids that have problems with their life but it is hard for kids to work the program, but it is easy because the kids help you get used to it and they help you with your problem to deal with them and the program helps you to make it in life.

Me and My Family

I like to work with my family and spend a lot of time with them, but sometimes I would like to spend some time with friends during the week. I would help my family hauling wood. At every end of the week, we would go camping for the weekend. I would go hunting and fishing alone while my family are building the camp. I like riding on the boat because I get to control the motor, and be helpful to my family and makes me proud.

Baseball Game at Agassiz

Well my name is Alphonse.

I was at Agassiz for the summer, and I had lots of fun, playing some sports, but most of the time I like playing baseball because we were too good, me and my group from Beta Cottage "A", we won most of the games we played with other groups at Agassiz. Me and my group were supporting each other playing all these baseball games. That's why we won most of the games, and we lost two games, and we had a baseball tournament with all the cottages at Agassiz, me and my group won the tournament, and the last game we played with the staff from Beta Cottage, and we lost the game, but it was the nicest game I ever played, because most of the staff were falling around all over the field, and it was a good game.

The Way We Play Football

Hi, my name is Louie. I like playing sports. My favorite is football and I like to play quarterback and I play with my friends and we make teams. We count off two's so we'll have equal teams, then we call for positions but we can only play in one position so we flip a coin and when somebody wins, he gets to play were he wants to play. There are captains too, there are two captains, the pick a number and the first one who gets the number first gets to pick first. And the first captain gets the ball first. Sometimes we play up to 3 hours or more. Sometimes we all decide when to stop playing and it doesn't matter if you win or lose.